

Case Number:	CM14-0133168		
Date Assigned:	10/23/2014	Date of Injury:	06/12/2012
Decision Date:	12/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/14/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/20/2014

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to an expert reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management and is licensed to practice in California. He/she has been in active clinical practice for more than five years and is currently working at least 24 hours a week in active practice. The expert reviewer was selected based on his/her clinical experience, education, background, and expertise in the same or similar specialties that evaluate and/or treat the medical condition and disputed items/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 33-year-old male with a 6/12/12 date of injury. At the time (8/13/14) of the Decision for Retrospective request for flurbiprofen/capsaicin patch 10% 0.025% cream #120 w/1 refill (DOS 7/23/2014) and Retrospective request for Lidocaine/hyaluronic patch 6% 0.2% cream, #120 w/1 refill (DOS 7/23/2014), there is documentation of subjective (low back pain radiating to lower extremities) and objective (limited thoracic range of motion) findings, current diagnoses (cervical discopathy, lumbago, and status post L5-S1 posterior lumbar interbody fusion), and treatment to date (physical therapy and medications (including ongoing treatment with Omeprazole, Cyclobenzaprine, Tramadol, and Voltaren)). Regarding Retrospective request for flurbiprofen/capsaicin patch 10% 0.025% cream #120 w/1 refill (DOS 7/23/2014), there is no documentation of neuropathic pain; and that trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

The Final Determination was based on decisions for the disputed items/services set forth below:

Retrospective request for Flurbiprofen/Capsaicin patch 10% 0.025% cream #120 w/1 refill (DOS 7/23/2014): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111.

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies that topical analgesics are recommended for neuropathic pain when trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of a diagnosis of cervical discopathy, lumbago, and status post L5-S1 posterior lumbar interbody fusion. However, there is no documentation of neuropathic pain; and that trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Retrospective request for flurbiprofen/capsaicin patch 10% 0.025% cream #120 w/1 refill (DOS 7/23/2014) is not medically necessary.

Retrospective request for Lidocaine/hyaluronic patch 6% 0.2% cream, #120 w/1 refill (DOS 7/23/2014): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111-113.

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies that many agents are compounded as monotherapy or in combination for pain control; that Ketoprofen, lidocaine (in creams, lotion or gels), capsaicin in a 0.0375% formulation, baclofen and other muscle relaxants, and Gabapentin and other anti-epilepsy drugs are not recommended for topical applications; and that any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended, is not recommended. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of cervical discopathy, lumbago, and status post L5-S1 posterior lumbar interbody fusion. However, the requested Lidocaine/hyaluronic patch 6% 0.2% cream contains at least one drug (Lidocaine (in cream)) that is not recommended. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Retrospective request for Lidocaine/hyaluronic patch 6% 0.2% cream, #120 w/1 refill (DOS 7/23/2014) is not medically necessary.